

FOUNDATIONS
“THE POWER OF EASTER: THE BLOOD OF JESUS”
LESSON #1

Intro. Tonight we're beginning a new series, *The Power of Easter*.

- *The power of Easter is the power of Jesus' blood!*

1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV) For the preaching of **the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it **is the power of God**.

1. Over the next several weeks we're going to talk about the power of Jesus' blood

- *It's for more than just forgiveness of sins*

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) In Him we have redemption **through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

2. When we think of the blood of Jesus, we normally think of His death on the cross
 - a. The blood shed on the cross is so important to us because through it we receive forgiveness
3. The cross wasn't the only place where Jesus shed blood
 - a. He shed blood in the garden of Gethsemane, when He was beaten and whipped, with the crown of thorns, and finally, at the cross
 - b. Every place where Jesus' blood was spilled has a specific benefit for us

- *It's important to realize Jesus' blood was shed for every area of our lives*

ex. *If you are suffering in any area of your life, Jesus' blood was shed to cover it; for forgiveness, healing, our minds, our emotions, EVERYTHING!*

- *We're going to begin by laying a foundation for the rest of the series*
- *In the following weeks we will look at the specific places where Jesus' blood was shed and the power released through His blood for our freedom*

I. THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS _____

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
19 but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

John 12:32-33 (NKJV)

32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."
33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

A. JESUS BLOOD IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE IT _____

1 John 1:7-9 (NKJV)

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin**.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.

1. One of the worst consequences of sin is it makes us feel _____
 - a. Some believers still wrestle with guilt from their past
 - b. This is why it's so important for us to have an understanding of the work of Jesus' blood

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV) and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us **and washed us from our sins in His own blood**.

- c. The wording in **Revelation 1:5** is intentional, "**and washed us from our sins in His own blood**"
 - *We don't have to live with guilt! We shouldn't live with guilt*
 - *His blood was shed to cleanse us*

2. We can and should have a _____

Hebrews 9:11-14 (NKJV)

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but **with His own blood** He entered the

Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

a. Jesus paid an enormous price for our forgiveness; too great a price was paid for us to continue to carry around guilt

3. The book of **Hebrews** reveals one of the greatest differences between the _____ **Testaments**

Hebrews 8:6 (NKJV) But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **better covenant**, which was established on better promises.

Matthew 26:26-28 (NKJV)

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

28 For this is My blood of the **new covenant**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

a. In the Old Testament animals were sacrificed for the sins of the people

b. They were imperfect sacrifices because they only *covered sins*

ex. *God's judgment came on Israel because of their sin. When they offered sacrifices, their sins were covered, and God's judgment would be averted. The problem was even though their sin was covered, the people still felt guilty.*

- **Hebrews 9:11-14** tells us Christ's blood was a superior sacrifice because it didn't merely cover our sins, it cleansed them

read again, Hebrews 9:14 (NKJV) how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

- *Jesus' blood didn't simply cover over our sins, it cleansed them*

Prayer and confession: *Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood for me. I receive Your forgiveness and cleansing. I will walk with a clear conscience because Your blood has set me free from guilt.*

B. JESUS' BLOOD IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE IT _____

Colossians 1:20 (NKJV) and *by Him to reconcile all things to Himself*, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, *having made peace through the blood* of His cross.

—**Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words- reconcile:** "*to change from enmity to friendship, to reconcile.*"

1. Because of the blood we have _____
 - a. When we have peace with God we begin to be at peace with ourselves
2. Because we have been reconciled we can come to God

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, *having boldness* to enter the Holiest *by the blood of Jesus*,

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

22 *let us draw near* with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- a. This is one of the most important truths we can know about God
 - b. He wants us *close*
- *Being reconciled means we can come to God boldly*

Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off *have been brought near by the blood of Christ*.

- *If we allow guilt, condemnation, or inferiority to keep us at arms length from God we are diminishing the power of Jesus' blood*
- *None of us should allow that*

- *Jesus' blood is precious because it cleanses us and reconciles us*

II. THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS _____

A. IT'S THROUGH JESUS' BLOOD THAT WE RECEIVE THE POWER TO _____

Revelation 12:10-11 (NKJV)

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and **the power of His Christ** have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 And **they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

1. God never intended us to live a _____
 - a. Too many of us live far beneath our privileges

- *This is why we must gain understanding of the power of Jesus' blood*
- *Otherwise, we will continue to experience defeat in areas of our lives that God wants us to have victory in*

- b. We aren't meant to merely receive forgiveness of sins; we're to receive power over them!

Romans 6:14 (NKJV) For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

12 **It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

- c. *The power to say "No" is through the power of His blood*

Hebrews 10:3-4 (NKJV)

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

- d. In Old Testament times every year they offered the same sacrifices for the same sins because there was no freedom or power over those sins

Hebrews 10:9-10 (NKJV)

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

2. When Jesus died on the cross He said _____

John 19:30 (KJV) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, ***It is finished***: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

- a. The last words Jesus spoke from the cross were, "*It is finished.*"
- b. He didn't say, "*I am finished*", but "*It is finished.*"

- *Everything He needed to accomplish for us to be forgiven and to live a whole and victorious life was finished on the cross*

B. JESUS' BLOOD IS POWERFUL BECAUSE IT AFFECTS _____

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV) For ***the message of the cross*** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it ***is the power of God.***

Romans 10:8-9 (NKJV)

8 But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be ***saved.***

1. The word ***saved*** is the Greek word ***sozo***
 - a. It means "*to be made whole*"
 - b. This "*wholeness*" is meant to affect our *whole life!*

- *Wholeness brings forgiveness, healing (physical and emotional), deliverance, provision (finances), authority and power.*
- *In the next two classes we're going to learn how to experience the power of Jesus' blood in every area of our lives and toward every need we have*

PRAYER AND CONFESSION: *Jesus, thank You for reconciling me to God. I will boldly come before my Heavenly Father, knowing that He wants me close. Thank You for making me an overcomer in life. Thank You for the power of Your blood, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #1

I. THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS _____(PRECIOUS)

A. JESUS BLOOD IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE IT _____(CLEANSES US)

1. One of the worst consequences of sin is it makes us feel _____(**dirty**)
2. We can and should have a _____(**clean conscience**)
3. The book of **Hebrews** reveals one of the greatest differences between the _____(**Old and New**) Testaments

B. JESUS' BLOOD IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE IT _____(RECONCILES US)

1. Because of the blood we have _____(**peace with God**)
2. Because we have been reconciled we can come to God _____(**boldly**)

II. THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS _____(POWERFUL)

A. IT'S THROUGH JESUS' BLOOD THAT WE RECEIVE THE POWER TO _____(OVERCOME)

1. God never intended us to live a _____(**defeated life**)
2. When Jesus died on the cross He said _____(**it is finished**)

B. JESUS' BLOOD IS POWERFUL BECAUSE IT AFFECTS _____(EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES)